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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/645,687	08/20/2003	Kim Simelius	879A.0048.U1(US)	8280
29683 7590 07/21/2008 HARRINGTON & SMITH, PC 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212				
EXAMINER				
SYED, FARHAN M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2165				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/21/2008		PAPER		

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/645,687
Filing Date: August 20, 2003
Appellant(s): SIMELIUS ET AL.

Walter Malinowski (Reg. No. 43,423)
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 05 May 2008 appealing from the final Office action mailed 27 November 2007.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is substantially correct. The changes are as follows:

WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS

The following grounds of rejection are not presented for review on appeal because they have been withdrawn by the examiner. Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Celik, U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0236792.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

6,324,544	ALAM et al	1-2001
2005/0086199	CHAMPAGNE et al	4-2005
6,141,663	HUNKINS	10-2000

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-8, 12-20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alam et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,544 and known hereinafter as

Alam) in view of Champagne et al (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0086199 and known hereinafter as Champagne).

As per claims 1, 15, and 22, Alam teaches a method, the method comprising; forming a data item for the first time into the first electronic device (i.e. *"Sync engine 36 on desktop 14 also includes a synchronization manager 148 coupled to an associated reference store 150 and also coupled to application programs, including PIM sync provider 152 and file sync provider 154."* The previous text clearly indicates that the associated reference store is the forming of a data item for the first time into the first electronic device, which is the desktop.)(column 9, paragraph 56-60); and synchronizing said data items between said first electronic device (i.e. mobile device or desktop computer) and a second electronic device (i.e. mobile device or desktop computer) ON the bases of said selected grouping identifier (i.e. create handle/object mapping)(see Figure 7A), said devices being capable of communication with each other (i.e. *"In order to accomplish synchronization, synchronization components 24 and 36 run on mobile device 12 and desktop computer 14, respectively. The synchronization components communicate with application programs 16, 18, 28 and 30 (or directly with the associated object stores) through well defined interfaces (discussed in greater detail below) to manage communication and synchronization."*)(column 5, lines 28-34)

Alam does not explicitly teaches a method in response to said forming, providing to a user of the first electronic device a possibility to associate an existing grouping identifier with the formed data item; in response to a situation in which the user associates said existing grouping identifier for the formed data item, associating the formed data item with said existing grouping identifier, said existing grouping identifier being associable with least one other data item, in response to a situation in which the user does not want to use said existing grouping identifier for the formed data item,

obtaining a new grouping identifier and associating the formed data item with the new grouping identifier, selecting one of the following: the said existing grouping identifier and the new grouping identifier, to be a selected grouping identifier.

Champagne teaches a method in response to forming, providing to a user of the first electronic device a possibility to associate an existing grouping identifier with the formed data item; in response to a situation in which the user associates said existing grouping identifier for the formed data item (i.e. "The category of a field defines the type of information the field is designed or meant to contain." The preceding text clearly indicates that the formed data item is the type of information the field is designed or meant to contain and the identifier is the category.) (page 3, paragraph 36), associating the formed data item with said existing grouping identifier, said existing grouping identifier being associable with least one other data item (i.e. "In other embodiments, the field identification protocol provides a list of field categories for a selected group of databases or for those databases designed to conform to the protocol." The previous text clearly indicates that a list of field categories (identifiers) for grouping of data items, which are contained in the grouping of databases.) (page 3, paragraph 36), in response to a situation in which the user does not want to use said existing grouping identifier for the formed data item (page 1, paragraph 11), obtaining a new grouping identifier and associating the formed data item with the new grouping identifier (page 1, paragraph 11), selecting one of the following: the said existing grouping identifier and the new grouping identifier, to be a selected grouping identifier (page 1, paragraph 11) (i.e. "In a third aspect, in order to transmit data between two databases, information identifying the record structure of one of the two databases is transmitted to a computer program. This transmitted information identifies both the categories and the properties of a plurality of fields of the record structure of one of the two databases. Data stored in a plurality of fields of a plurality of the records of the first database is then transmitted from one of the two

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databases to the other one of the two databases. The transmitted data is then processed using the identifying information." The preceding text clearly indicates that synchronizing data is transmitting data from the first electronic device, which is the first database, and second electronic device, which is the second database, based on the selected identifier, which is the identifying information.)(page 1, paragraph 11).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method in response to said forming, providing to a user of the first electronic device a possibility to associate an existing grouping identifier with the formed data item; in response to a situation in which the user associates said existing grouping identifier for the formed data item, associating the formed data item with said existing grouping identifier, said existing grouping identifier being associable with least one other data item, in response to a situation in which the user does not want to use said existing grouping identifier for the formed data item, obtaining a new grouping identifier and associating the formed data item with the new grouping identifier, selecting one of the following: the said existing grouping identifier and the new grouping identifier, to be a selected grouping identifier with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 2, Alam does not teach a method wherein each grouping identifier comprises at least one of the following: text, still picture, moving picture, sound or vibration effect.

Champagne teaches a method wherein each grouping identifier comprises at least one of the following: text, still picture, moving picture, sound or vibration effect (i.e. *"As mentioned, a field identification protocol provides a syntax for remote and host data transfer programs 22, 42 to communicate with one another the data structure of their respective databases. Such a syntax includes, for example, assigning to each field category a designation (for example, a numerical, alphabetical, or alphanumeric code or name) identifying that field category, such as "Addr" for address, "Tel" for the first telephone number, "Appt:date" for a date field of an appointment type record."*) The preceding text clearly indicates that numerical, alphabetical, or alphanumeric code or name is a type of text.)(page 3, paragraph 42).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include wherein each grouping identifier comprises at least one of the following: text, still picture, moving picture, sound or vibration effect with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 3, Alam does not teach a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by the user of the first electronic device or the second grouping identifier is retrieved from a network server.

Champagne teaches a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by the user of the first electronic device or the second grouping identifier is retrieved from a network server (i.e. *"In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a*

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comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol." The preceding text clearly indicates that an identifier such as appointments, "to do" lists, address books, etc., are formed by the user of the device when the user uses the PIM application.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by the user of the first electronic device or the second grouping identifier is retrieved from a network server with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claims 4 and 16, Alam does not teach a method wherein the method further comprises maintaining a register of at least one grouping identifier being associable to at least one data item stored into the memory of the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method wherein the method further comprises maintaining a register of at least one grouping identifier being associable to at least one data item stored into the memory of the first electronic device (i.e. *"in the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol.*" The preceding text clearly indicates that a personal information

manager comprises of a plurality of data items associated to a plurality of identifiers.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method characterized by, the method wherein the method further comprises maintaining a register of at least one grouping identifier being associable to at least one data item stored into the memory of the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claims 5 and 17, Alam does not teach a method where the first grouping identifier is manually selected from the register by a user of the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method where the first grouping identifier is manually selected from the register by a user of the first electronic device (i.e. *"In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol."* The preceding text clearly indicates that a user may manually select general notes, which is the identifier, from the register, which is a PIM application, and within the general notes contains data items, which are general notes records.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne

to include a method where the first grouping identifier is manually selected from the register by a user of the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claims 6 and 18, Alam does not explicitly teach a method wherein the first grouping identifier is automatically selected from the register by the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method wherein the first grouping identifier is automatically selected from the register by the first electronic device (i.e. *"In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol."* The preceding text clearly indicates that the first electronic device may automatically data items associated with appointments, which is an identifier, from the register, which is the PIM application. That is, when a user sets up an appointment, by entering the date and time of the appointment, the user is notified by the electronic device when that date and time occurs.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method wherein the first grouping identifier is automatically selected from the register by the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claims 7 and 19, Alam does not teach a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by a user of the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by a user of the first electronic device (i.e. *"The information identifying the record structure of one of the databases identifies the record structure according to a selected field identification protocol identifying the categories and properties of the fields in the record structure of that database."*) The preceding text clearly indicates that a data item is contained within a record structure and is associated with an identifier, which are categories.)(Abstract).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by a user of the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claims 8 and 20, Alam does not teach a method wherein the second grouping identifier is stored to the register of the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method wherein the second grouping identifier is stored to the register of the first electronic device (i.e. *"In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field*

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identification protocol." The preceding text clearly indicates that the created identifiers are appointments, 'to do' lists, address books, etc., and are stored to the register, which is the database.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method wherein the second grouping identifier is stored to the register of the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 12, Alam teaches a method wherein the selected grouping identifier comprises an icon to be visually presented to the user of the first device (i.e. *"A user may enter commands and information into the desktop computer 14 through input devices such as a keyboard 40, pointing device 42 and microphone 43. Other input devices (not shown) may include a joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like. These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit 62 through a serial port interface 46 that is coupled to the system bus 66, but may be connected by other interfaces, such as a sound card, a parallel port, game port or a universal serial bus (USB) A monitor 47 or other type of display device is also connected to the system bus 66 via an interface, such as a video adapter 48."* The preceding text clearly indicates that an icon is a type of command or information entered by a user and a monitor is a display device that allows the visually presentation.)(column 6, lines 54-66).

As per claim 13, Alam teaches a method wherein the selected grouping identifier further comprises text to be visually presented to the user of the first device (i.e. *"A user may enter commands and information into the desktop computer 14 through input devices such as a*

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keyboard 40, pointing device 42 and microphone 43. Other input devices (not shown) may include a joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like. These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit 62 through a serial port interface 46 that is coupled to the system bus 66, but may be connected by other interfaces, such as a sound card, a parallel port, game port or a universal serial bus (USB) A monitor 47 or other type of display device is also connected to the system bus 66 via an interface, such as a video adapter 48." The preceding text clearly indicates that an text is a type of command or information entered by a user and a monitor is a display device that allows the visually presentation.)(column 6, lines 54-66).

As per claim 14, Alam does not teach a method wherein the selected grouping identifier further comprises information of those data items associated to said grouping identifier.

Champagne teaches a method wherein the selected grouping identifier further comprises information of those data items associated to said grouping identifier (i.e. "A *field identification protocol provides a syntax for identifying and communicating characteristics of a field of a database. It provides two types of information: information identifying a "category" for the field and information identifying a "property" of a field.*" The preceding text clearly indicates that an identifier is a category and the information of those data items associated to the identifier is the properties.)(page 3, paragraph 35).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method wherein the selected grouping identifier further comprises information of those data items associated to said grouping identifier with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

3. Claims 9-11 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alam et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,544 and known hereinafter as Alam) in view of Champagne et al (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0086199 and known hereinafter as Champagne) and in further view of Hunkins (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,663).

As per claims 9 and 21, Alam and Champagne do not explicitly teach a method wherein a user of the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization manually.

Hunkins teaches a method wherein a user of the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization manually (i.e. *"Manual Update. Each of the databases containing redundant data can be viewed as islands of automation. Information that is common to all can be updated by manually entering the information into each of the separate databases. This is an extremely common method."* The previous text clearly indicates that synchronization occurs manually.)(column 2, lines 49-53).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne and further with the teachings of Hunkins to include a method wherein a user of the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization manually with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 10, Alam and Champagne do not explicitly teach method wherein the first electronic device selects the selected grouping identifier for the synchronization automatically.

Hunkins teaches a method wherein the first electronic device selects the selected grouping identifier for the synchronization automatically (i.e. *"It is an object of the present invention to allow redundant data to be updated automatically, without human intervention, in order to provide and preserve data integrity and synchronization."* The preceding text clearly indicates that synchronization occurs automatically.) (column 4, lines 12-16).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne and further with the teachings of Hunkins to include a method wherein the first electronic device selects the selected grouping identifier for the synchronization automatically with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 11, Alam and Champagne do not explicitly teach a method wherein the first electronic device performs the synchronization periodically.

Hunkins teaches a method wherein the first electronic device performs the synchronization periodically (i.e. *"When the scheduled time is reached, the preferred embodiment begins processing each Change Object one by one. Each Change Object is asked for its database references. With this information, all available Format files, like those listed in 1c are scanned to see if the changed data is also appearing in an outside data file. If it is, the external data file is located with the link file as shown 1e and the Format file is used to surgically update the external data file. Since the complete format is now known, this is a manageable problem. When the project file is completed and all Change*

Objects have been executed, all external data files are synchronized to the common database. " The preceding text clearly indicates that periodically is a schedule time.)(column 8, lines 6-18).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne and further with the teachings of Hunkins to include a method wherein the first electronic device performs the synchronization periodically with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

(10) Response to Argument

With respect to Issue I, since the Examiner has withdrawn the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1-22 as being anticipated by Celik, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0236792, the Examiner will not address the arguments presented by the Appellant in the Appeal Brief filed on 05 May 2008.

The applicant argues the following:

Claims 1, 15, and 22

(1) "The claimed subject matter of the independent claims makes possible that a user of an electronic device can form tailored grouping of data items. Neither Alam nor Champagne teaches the above recited subject matter."

The Examiner disagrees. The combination of Alam and Champagne teach that a user of an electronic device can form tailored grouping of data items (i.e. *"In one illustrative*

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embodiment of the present invention, application programs 16 and 28 are personal information manager (PIM) programs which support, for example, electronic mail messaging, scheduling, calendaring, etc. Hereinafter, programs 16 and 28 will simply be referred to as PIMs 16 and 28. Of course, PIMs 16 and 28 can be configured to support a wide variety of other features, such as task lists and personalized address books, to name a few." The Examiner understands that scheduling, calendaring, task lists, and personalized address books are illustration of tailoring grouping of data items. That is data items pertaining to scheduling will be grouped and associated with scheduling, data items pertaining to task lists will be grouped and associated to task lists, etc.)(Alam, at least column 4, lines 43-50) (i.e. "The identifying information identifies categories of the fields in the record structure of the one of the first and second databases according to the selected protocol and the fields of the first database are correlated to the fields of the second database based on the identified categories of the fields. **The categories of the fields in the record structure of the one of the first and second databases can be classified into a plurality of mapping classes and the fields of the first database are correlated to the second plurality of the fields of the second database based on the plurality of mapping classes. Mapping rules are applied to the plurality of mapping classes to correlate the fields. One of the mapping rules can indicate that fields of the one of the databases having a selected class, if absent in the other one of the databases, are to be mapped to fields having a selected class.**" The Examiner also interprets tailored grouping to be equivalent to the categories of the fields in the record structure (i.e. data items), can be classified (i.e. grouped) into a plurality of mapping classes...)(Champagne, paragraph [0017]).

(2) "Champagne does not teach to obtain a new grouping item and to associate a formed data item within the new grouping item as a response to a situation in which a user does not want to use an existing grouping identifier for the formed data item."

The Examiner disagrees. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references

individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). The combination of Alam and Champagne teach obtain a new grouping item and to associate a formed data item within the new grouping item as a response to a situation in which a user does not want to use an existing grouping identifier for the formed data item ("*...to maintain mapping, synchronization manager maintains reference store so that it contains handles corresponding respectively to a plurality of objects in the object stores...*" "*...it also determines whether objects have been added to or deleted from the object stores so that appropriate additions and deletions can be made...*"). The Examiner interprets that appropriate additions are made if the user obtains new grouping items, which would require handles corresponding to the plurality of objects (i.e. data items). (Alam, column 10, lines 10-67)(see also Champagne, at least paragraphs [0017, 0018, 0020, 0036, 0040, 0042, 0050-0056, 0060]).

Claim 3

(3) "Where does Champagne teach 'a new grouping identifier' and 'a new grouping identifier formed by the user of the first device' or 'retrieved from a network server'?"

The Examiner disagrees. Champagne teaches a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by the user of the first electronic device or the second grouping identifier is retrieved from a network server (i.e. "*In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all,*

of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol." The preceding text clearly indicates that an identifier such as appointments, "to do" lists, address books, etc., are formed by the user of the device when the user uses the PIM application.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

Claims 4, 8, 16, and 20

(4) The cited references do not teach "at least one grouping identifier being associable to at least one data item stored into a memory of the first electronic device."

The Examiner disagrees. Champagne teaches a method wherein the method further comprises maintaining a register of at least one grouping identifier being associable to at least one data item stored into the memory of the first electronic device (i.e. *"In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol."* The preceding text clearly indicates that a personal information manager comprises of a plurality of data items associated to a plurality of identifiers.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

Claims 5 and 17

(5) The cited references do not teach "wherein said existing grouping identifier is manually selected from a register by the user of the first electronic device."

The Examiner disagrees. Champagne teaches a method where the first grouping identifier is manually selected from the register by a user of the first electronic device (i.e. *"In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol."* The preceding text clearly indicates that a user may manually select general notes, which is the identifier, from the register, which is a PIM application, and within the general notes contains data items, which are general notes records.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

Claims 6 and 18

(6) The cited references do not teach "wherein said existing grouping identifier is automatically selected from the register by the first electronic device."

The Examiner disagrees. Champagne teaches a method wherein the first grouping identifier is automatically selected from the register by the first electronic device (i.e. *"In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol."* The preceding text clearly indicates that the first electronic device may automatically data items associated with appointments, which is an identifier, from the register, which is the PIM application. That is, when a user sets up an

appointment, by entering the date and time of the appointment, the user is notified by the electronic device when that date and time occurs.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

Claims 7 and 19

(7) The cited references do not teach "wherein the new grouping identifier is formed by a user of the first electronic device."

The Examiner disagrees. Champagne teaches a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by a user of the first electronic device (i.e. *"The information identifying the record structure of one of the databases identifies the record structure according to a selected field identification protocol identifying the categories and properties of the fields in the record structure of that database."*) The preceding text clearly indicates that a data item is contained within a record structure and is associated with an identifier, which are categories.)(Abstract).

Claims 12 and 14

(8) The cited references do not teach "wherein the selected grouping identifier comprises an icon to be visually presented to a user of the first device."

The Examiner disagrees. Alam teaches a method wherein the selected grouping identifier comprises an icon to be visually presented to the user of the first device (i.e. *"A user may enter commands and information into the desktop computer 14 through input devices such as a keyboard 40, pointing device 42 and microphone 43. Other input devices (not shown) may include a joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like. These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit 62 through a serial port interface 46 that is coupled to the system bus 66, but may be connected by other interfaces, such as a sound card, a parallel port, game port or a universal serial bus (USB) A monitor 47 or other type of display device is also connected to the system bus 66 via an*

interface, such as a video adapter 48." The preceding text clearly indicates that an icon is a type of command or information entered by a user and a monitor is a display device that allows the visually presentation.)(column 6, lines 54-66).

Claim 13

(9) The cited references do not teach "wherein the selected grouping identifier further comprises text to be visually presented to the user of the first device."

The Examiner disagrees. Alam teaches a method wherein the selected grouping identifier further comprises text to be visually presented to the user of the first device (i.e. *"A user may enter commands and information into the desktop computer 14 through input devices such as a keyboard 40, pointing device 42 and microphone 43. Other input devices (not shown) may include a joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like. These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit 62 through a serial port interface 46 that is coupled to the system bus 66, but may be connected by other interfaces, such as a sound card, a parallel port, game port or a universal serial bus (USB) A monitor 47 or other type of display device is also connected to the system bus 66 via an interface, such as a video adapter 48.*" The preceding text clearly indicates that an text is a type of command or information entered by a user and a monitor is a display device that allows the visually presentation.)(column 6, lines 54-66).

Claim 9

(10) "There does not appear to be any disclosure or suggestion of a first device selecting the selected grouping identified for the synchronization manually. Hunkins does not appear to disclose or suggest selecting the selected grouping identifier."

The Examiner disagrees. Hunkins teaches a method wherein a user of the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization manually (i.e. *"Manual Update. Each of the databases containing redundant data can be viewed as islands of automation. Information that is common to all can be updated by manually entering the information into each of the separate databases. This is an extremely common method."* The previous text clearly indicates that synchronization occurs manually.)(column 2, lines 49-53).

Claim 10

(11) "Hunkins does not teach that the first device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization automatically."

The Examiner disagrees. Hunkins teaches a method wherein the first electronic device selects the selected grouping identifier for the synchronization automatically (i.e. *"It is an object of the present invention to allow redundant data to be updated automatically, without human intervention, in order to provide and preserve data integrity and synchronization."* The preceding text clearly indicates that synchronization occurs automatically.)(column 4, lines 12-16).

Claim 11

(12) "Hunkins does not disclose periodic synchronization but a scheduled synchronization."

The Examiner disagrees. Hunkins teaches a method wherein the first electronic device performs the synchronization periodically (i.e. *"When the scheduled time is reached, the preferred embodiment begins processing each Change Object one by one. Each Change Object is asked for its database references. With this information, all available Format files, like those listed in 1c are scanned to see if the changed data is also appearing in an outside data file. If it is, the external data file is*

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located with the link file as shown 1e and the Format file is used to surgically update the external data file. Since the complete format is now known, this is a manageable problem. When the project file is completed and all Change Objects have been executed, all external data files are synchronized to the common database. " The preceding text clearly indicates that periodically is a schedule time.)(column 8, lines 6-18).

Claim 21

(13) "Hunkins does not disclose selecting means which is arranged to select the selected grouping identifier for the synchronization."

The Examiner disagrees. Hunkins teaches a method wherein a user of the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization manually (i.e. *"Manual Update. Each of the databases containing redundant data can be viewed as islands of automation. Information that is common to all can be updated by manually entering the information into each of the separate databases. This is an extremely common method."* The previous text clearly indicates that synchronization occurs manually.)(column 2, lines 49-53).

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Farhan Syed

/F. M. S./

Examiner, Art Unit 2165

Conferees:

/Christian P. Chace/

Art Unit: 2165

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2165

Christian Chace

/Eddie C Lee/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 2100